

Interstate status for 99 moves ahead

State and federal transportation officials are actively pursuing a plan to convert Highway 99 from a state route to a federal interstate.

The discussions began after Rep. Nunes included authorizing language in a federal transportation bill in 2005.

Since he was first elected in 2003, Rep. Nunes has sought to widen Highway 99 from Bakersfield to Sacramento to six lanes. The improvements would increase safety on the congested roadway, as well as improve air quality and help attract new industries to the Central Valley.

By becoming a federal interstate, the highway would be eligible each year for federal money to improve and maintain the roadway for decades to come.

Rep. Nunes has been successful in the past few years to secure federal funds to help pay for the widening of the highway in parts of Tulare and Fresno counties.



House Republicans have year of many accomplishments

House Republicans have a record of achievement that the American people can appreciate, because it is one that is aligned with their own priorities of national, homeland and economic security for this nation, Rep. Devin Nunes said of the past year.

House Republicans have worked to pass the Deficit Reduction Act, the Department of Defense spending bill and the Department of Defense Authorization bill, so that the American people can continue to be assured both economic and national security for their families and loved ones.

While Congress dedicated its efforts to help the Gulf Coast rebuild after the

worst natural disaster in American history, they also promised the American people that we would find ways to pay for the cost. We succeeded in passing approximately \$40 billion in savings; eliminating dozens of wasteful government programs for a savings of \$3.5 billion; and including a "One Percent Across-the-Board Spending Cut" that will save \$8.5 billion.

"For years we have worked on achieving an agreement to explore the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but have been blocked by the Senate. Accomplishing this will help eventually lower the cost of energy for American families and businesses by lessening our dependence on foreign oil and

increasing our domestic supply," Nunes said.

A landmark number of bills have been signed by the President including, a comprehensive energy bill that will assure Americans energy security, a historic highway bill that will improve our nation's critical infrastructure, a class action fairness bill that will eliminate frivolous lawsuits, a bankruptcy reform bill that will protect consumers and small businesses, the Real ID Act that will streamline the identification process for law enforcement, billions in hurricane relief for those Americans affected by this year's national disasters, and CAFTA legislation that will enhance the trading partnership with Central

America.

House Republicans have passed several bills that now await Senate approval. Those measures include; immigration and border enforcement; an extension of capital gains and dividend tax relief, a permanent death tax repeal, an alternative minimum tax relief, health care liability and access legislation, small business health fairness (AHPs), pension reform, terrorism insurance extension, Katrina tax relief, reform for Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs), Child Interstate Abortion Notification, and United Nations reform.